



TÜVRheinland®

DIN CERTCO

Precisely Right.



## Certification Scheme

**flustix PLASTIC-FREE**

(Edition: November 2020)

## Foreword

DIN CERTCO was founded in 1972 by DIN Deutsches Institut für Normung e. V. (German Institute for Standardization) for the awarding of DIN marks and provides certification for products, persons, services and companies on the basis of DIN standards and similar specifications.

In order to prove our impartiality, independency and competence, we are voluntary accredited according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17065. For the satisfaction and trust of our clients and their data, we maintain furthermore a certified

- Quality Management System according to DIN EN ISO 9001
- Environmental Management System according to DIN ISO 14001
- Occupational Health and Safety Management System according to OHSAS 18001

This certification scheme offers the possibility to mark plastic-free consumer goods, products, packaging and semi-finished products or materials intended for further processing with the independent certification mark "flustix - NO PLASTICS" if they qualify for one of the flustix PLASTIC-FREE certifications. Product components such as packaging or its contents can be tested and marked separately. In order to clearly communicate the plastic savings to the end consumer, the marking is done according to four specific categories:

- total product
- content free from microplastics
- product
- packaging

We offer the consumer a reliable guidance for plastic-reduced shopping, protect the environment and help innovative economic players to communicate their sustainability with regard to plastics through independent certification and regular monitoring by DIN CERTCO in cooperation with FLUSTIX GmbH.

Towards consumers the confidence is created that an independent, neutral and competent institution examined and evaluated the test criteria carefully by the certification mark "flustix - NO PLASTICS".

The certification mark "flustix - NO PLASTICS" is the first Europe-wide certification mark for plastic-free products registered as a EU certification mark, which represents a test seal and a word as well as a picture mark protected by trademark law.

In addition to the general terms and conditions of DIN CERTCO and the testing, registration and certification regulations of DIN CERTCO, this certification scheme forms the basis for suppliers to mark their plastic-free products with the certification mark "flustix - NO PLASTICS". They thus document that their products meet all requirements of this certification scheme.

Plastic-free products receive the certification mark "flustix - NO PLASTICS" if they meet the requirements listed in section 4 according to the procedure described in this certification scheme.

All certificate holders can be viewed on the daily up-dated homepage of DIN CERTCO ([www.dincertco.tuv.com](http://www.dincertco.tuv.com)).

## Start of validity

This certification scheme applies from 2020-11-01.

**Modification**

Compared to the Certification Scheme “flustix PLASTIC-FREE” (2020-06) the following changes were made:

- a) Editorial alterations
- a) Clarification of the scope of the examination
- b) Exclusion of polymers that occur in nature or are biodegradable

**Earlier versions**

Certification Scheme “flustix PLASTIC-FREE” (2020-06)

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## 1 Scope

This certification scheme applies to plastic-free consumer goods, products, packaging and semi-finished products and contains, in conjunction with the test specifications listed below, all requirements for awarding the certification marks "flustix NO PLASTICS - plastic-free total product", "flustix NO PLASTICS - content free from microplastics", "flustix NO PLASTICS - plastic-free product" and "flustix NO PLASTICS - plastic-free packaging".

This certification scheme establishes requirements depending on the certification mark that need to be met by the consumer good, product, packaging or semi-finished product itself, as well as requirements relating to the associated testing, monitoring and certification.

## 2 Test and certification specifications

The basis for testing and certification are the documents listed below. For dated references, only the referenced version shall apply. For undated references the latest edition of the referenced document including any amendment applies.

DIN EN ISO 472	Plastics – Vocabulary (ISO/TC 61/SC1)
DIN EN 643	Paper and board – European list of standard grades of paper and board for recycling
ISO/TR 21960:2020	Plastics – Environmental aspects – State of knowledge and methodologies
Regulation (EU) No 10/2011	Commission regulation on plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food
ECHA	ANNEX XV RESTRICTION REPORT, PROPOSAL FOR A RESTRICTION, VERSION NUMBER: 1, DATE: 11 January 2019, European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), Annankatu 18, PO BOX

- this certification scheme
- Form "Positive analysis result" from DIN CERTCO
- [the general terms and conditions of TÜV Rheinland DIN CERTCO](#)
- [the testing, registration and certification regulations of DIN CERTCO](#)
- the schedule of fees in its most current version

The obligation to comply with laws and regulations governing the respective products is in no way affected by this certification scheme.

## 3 Definitions

The definitions apply to plastic-free consumer goods, products and packaging of all kinds, in particular goods from the food and non-food (such as cosmetics), fashion, home and garden (including compost and fertilizers or soil additives) or leisure sectors. In addition, the definitions of plastic-free semi-finished products or materials intended for further processing apply.

Where a consumer product is offered and placed on the market without packaging, these definitions apply only to the product itself. The term plastic-free in the sense of the definition does not intend to make a statement about how a consumer good is to be classified in terms of quality.

### 3.1 Consumer goods

Consumer goods are goods that are produced and traded for the private use or consumption of consumers. A consumer good consists of the respective product and its packaging ("total product"). If a consumer good is offered and/or placed on the market at the final stage of trade without packaging, this definition refers only to the product itself.

#### 3.1.1 Products

Products are defined in this certification scheme as the goods or contents of a consumer good, such as a piece of clothing or tableware.

#### 3.1.2 Packaging

Packaging refers to containers, wrappings and outer packaging of a product or a semi-finished product for example sales packaging or cardboard packaging, such as those used for shipping or transporting consumer goods.

#### 3.1.3 Consumer

A consumer is the end user who no longer resells the consumer goods in the form delivered to him/her on a commercial basis.

### 3.2 Semi-finished products

Semi-finished products are intermediate products or materials intended for further processing.

### 3.3 Polymer

The term polymer is used to describe chemical compounds consisting of chain or branched molecules (macromolecules), which in turn consist of a large number of identical or similar units known as monomers.<sup>1</sup>

Polymers that occur naturally and have not been chemically modified (other than by hydrolysis) are excluded from this certification scheme as well as polymers that are (bio) degradable.<sup>2</sup>

### 3.4 Plastics

Plastics are organic macromolecular compounds obtained by polymerization, polycondensation, polyaddition or a similar process of molecules with a lower molecular weight or by chemical modification of natural molecules. Other substances or materials may also be added to these compounds. The starting materials for plastics have a natural basis (fossil raw materials), which are specifically produced by chemical reactions to form polymeric materials. A distinction is made between elastomers, thermoplastics and duroplastics.<sup>3</sup>

The term synthetic material means plastic.

<sup>1</sup> vgl. IUPAC Compendium of Chemical Terminology (the "Gold Book")

<sup>2</sup> vgl. ECHA: ANNEX XV RESTRICTION REPORT, PROPOSAL FOR A RESTRICTION, VERSION NUMBER: 1, DATE: 11 January 2019, European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), Annankatu 18, PO BOX 400, FI-00121, Helsinki, Finland.

<sup>3</sup> Regulation (EU) No 10/2011; DIN EN 13130-1; DIN EN ISO 472

### 3.5 Fresh fiber paper

Fresh fibre paper characterizes industrially produced paper that does not consist of waste paper, but is produced directly from raw materials such as wood.

### 3.6 Microplastic

The term microplastics refers to a material consisting of solid polymer particles to which additives or other substances may have been added.

According to ISO/TR 21960:2020, a distinction is made between microplastics and large microplastics:

1. Microplastics: all solid plastic particles insoluble in water with dimensions between 1 µm and 1000 µm (= 1 mm)
2. Large microplastics: all solid plastic particles insoluble in water with dimensions between 1 mm and 5 mm

### 3.7 Primary microplastic

Primary microplastics in this certification scheme describes industrially produced plastic particles in the order of magnitude according to section 3.6, which are used, for example, as additives in cosmetics and/or detergents, cleaning agents and cleaning products. In this certification scheme microplastics from a size of 6 µm are examined.

### 3.8 Unavoidable residues

Unavoidable residues describe plastics which can arise, for example, due to contamination through environmental influences, residues in materials used, contamination in the manufacturing process, as a result of the use of recycled materials or during packaging, transport, storage, rearrangement and packing.

Unavoidable residues must not exceed 0.2% of the total weight of the relevant consumer good, product, packaging or semi-finished product marked as plastic-free.

### 3.9 Technical unavailability

A consumer good, product, packaging or semi-finished product is considered to be free of plastic if it contains a plastic that is not avoidable according to the current state of the art, such as plastics used in the production of recycled paper. The tolerance limits for unwanted materials for recycled paper in this certification scheme refers to DIN EN 643.

#### 3.9.1 Special case fresh fiber paper

A consumer good, product, packaging or semi-finished product consisting of virgin fibre paper is considered to be free of plastic if it contains a plastic material up to 0.75% by weight, which is technically necessary to ensure the functioning of the consumer good, product, packaging or semi-finished product or to contribute to its durability. Adhesive on the binding of a book or a paper cup is considered to be a technically necessary plastic when used with fresh fibre paper.



## **4 Product requirements**

### **4.1 Plastic-free total product, plastic-free packaging**

A consumer good or packaging according to section 3 shall be deemed to be free of plastics if, taking into account sections 3.8 and 3.9, it consists of components, materials, ingredients and/or materials that do not contain plastics within the meaning of section 3.4.

### **4.2 Plastic-free product**

A product as defined in section 3.1.1 is considered to be free of plastics if, taking into account sections 3.8 and 3.9, it consists of components, materials, ingredients and/or materials that do not contain plastics as defined in section 3.4.

### **4.3 Content free from microplastics**

A technically manufactured product content does not contain microplastic if, taking into account Section 3.8, it consists of components, materials, contents and/or materials that do not contain primary microplastic according to section 3.7 in the range from 6 µm upwards.

The method of production, the auxiliary materials used, the transport before and after purchase by the consumer or processor and their presentation by the point of sale have no influence on the classification as plastic-free.

When using the definition, care must be taken to ensure that the informed consumer is not misled in the sense of fair trading law.

## **5 Testing**

### **5.1 General information**

DIN CERTCO uses its recognized testing laboratories to carry out the necessary tests as a basis for the evaluation and certification of consumer goods, products, packaging and semi-finished products.

### **5.2 Types of tests**

#### **5.2.1 Initial test (Type testing)**

The initial test is a type test (type examination) which serves to determine whether the consumer good, product, packaging or semi-finished product meets the requirements of section 4 of this certification scheme.

#### **5.2.2 Verification test (Control test)**

Verification testing is carried out every two years and serves to determine whether the certified consumer good, product, packaging or semi-finished product corresponds to the type-tested consumer good, product, type-tested packaging or type-tested semi-finished product in the production phase. It is commissioned by DIN CERTCO and must be verified by a positive test report in due time.

The scope of the verification test corresponds to the initial test in section 5.2.1

### 5.2.3 Supplementary testing

Supplement testing is performed when supplements, expansions or additions (see section 6.9) are intended for a certified consumer good, product, certified packaging or certified semi-finished product which have an influence on conformity with the underlying requirements.

The type and scope of supplementary testing will be determined by DIN CERTCO in individual cases in coordination with the laboratory.

### 5.2.4 Special test

A special test is conducted when

- defects are detected
- the production has been suspended for a period of more than 6 months
- required by DIN CERTCO - reasons to be specified
- requested in writing by a third party if a particular interest in the maintenance of proper conduct of market procedures in relation to competition or quality is involved.

The type and scope of special test will be determined by DIN CERTCO in each individual case, where applicable in coordination with the laboratory.

If defects are detected in a special test, or if a special test is performed due to a stop in production, then the certificate holder shall bear the costs of the examination procedure.

Should the special test at the request of a third party reveal no defects, the costs shall be borne by said third party.

## 5.3 Sampling

For initial and verification testing, the manufacturer usually delivers two test samples per consumer good, product, packaging or semi-finished product to the testing laboratory and to FLUSTIX. The manufacturer bears the associated costs.

At the same time, all documents such as information on the composition and ingredients of the respective test sample are sent by the applicant to the assigned testing laboratory.

## 5.4 Test procedure

### 5.4.1 General information

Upon receipt of the test samples together with the submitted documents, the testing laboratory checks whether the test is feasible and whether the test sample can pass the test. If this is the case, at least one test sample per type (see section 6.2) will be tested by the testing laboratory after submission of the application with document template according to section 6.1. In addition, the testing laboratory determines the scope of testing.

### 5.4.2 Testing of plastic-free semi-finished products, complete products, products and packaging

Depending on the test sample, a qualitative analysis is carried out either by FTIR, Raman or scanning electron microscopy and by pyrolysis GC/MS. If necessary, a sample preparation is necessary, which depends on the certification object.

If plastics are detected during the test, it shall be basically clarified whether the detected plastics originate from unavoidable residues according to section 3.8 or are technically unavoidable according to section 3.9. This is done by the manufacturer's declaration of intent using the form "Positive analysis result" and, if necessary, by checking the documents.

#### **5.4.3 Testing of content free from microplastics for products and semi-finished products**

In sample preparation, specialized preparation procedures separate and clean the microplastic from various matrices (water, cosmetic products, etc.). The detection of microplastics is done spectroscopically and/or thermos-analytically by means of:

- FT-IR microscopy: Examination of single particles by combining light microscopy and IR spectroscopy; detection of particles > 20 µm
- RAMAN-microscopy: Examination of single particles by combining light microscopy and Raman spectroscopy; detection of particles > 6 µm
- Pyrolysis gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (Pyrolysis-GC/MS): Analysis of macromolecules (e.g. polymers) by determination of the resulting thermal degradation products or pyrolysis fragments; allocation via database or reference material

#### **5.5 Test report**

The testing laboratory informs the client of the test results by means of a test report. An original copy of it shall be submitted to DIN CERTCO.

As a rule, the test report may not be older than 6 months at the time of application. In individual cases, older test reports can be recognised if the testing laboratory confirms the validity of the results by means of a test report.

The test report must correspond to DIN EN ISO/IEC17025 and must at least contain the following information:

- Name and address of the manufacturer
- Name and address of the applicant (if different than manufacturer)
- Test basis (certification scheme) with date of issue
- Type of test (e.g. type test, additional test, etc.)
- Test date
- Results and evaluation of test
- Name and signature of the individual responsible for the test
- Product description including picture, dimensions to clearly identify the test sample

### **6 Certification**

Certification in the sense of this certification scheme relates to the assessment of conformity of a consumer good, product, packaging or semi-finished product by DIN CERTCO on the basis of test reports submitted by testing laboratories recognized by DIN CERTCO.

In doing so, the certified consumer goods, products, packaging or semi-finished products being registered for conformity with the requirements specified in section 4 are examined and subsequently monitored.

The right to use the certification mark “flustix - NO PLASTICS” will be granted by the issuing of the respective certificate.

## 6.1 Application for certification

Applicants can be both manufacturers according to Article 4 of the Produkthaftungsgesetz (ProdHaftG) [German Product Liability Act] or retailers who market the consumer goods, products, packaging or semi-finished products independently within the meaning of the Produkthaftungsgesetz with the written consent of the certificate holder.

The following documents must be submitted by the applicant to DIN CERTCO:

- The original application for certification, with a legally binding signature and company stamp
- Current test report in accordance with section 5.5 on an initial test (see section 5.2.1), unless the test was commissioned by DIN CERTCO
- Description of the consumer good, product, packaging or semi-finished product and its use
- All information about the composition/ingredients
- Listing of all raw materials and additives used with indication of the respective mass fractions in %.
- Information as precise as possible about auxiliary materials used in production and possible contamination entry paths
- Short process description of all production steps of the manufacturer

After receipt of the application, the applicant will receive a confirmation of order from DIN CERTCO with a procedure number and information on further processing.

## 6.2 Classification of types and subtypes

Plastic-free consumer goods, products, packaging or semi-finished products, which differ in essential certification-relevant characteristics, are defined as type or model. Certification-relevant characteristics are e.g. the use of different materials or properties that significantly influence safety, function or handling and are therefore sold under a separate trade name. A separate certificate is issued for each type.

Sub-types are generally defined as those consumer goods, products, packaging or semi-finished products of a model/type that differ only in size/performance, formal or non-certification relevant characteristics. They can be combined on one certificate (e.g. similar tea bags of different flavors).

The classification of types and subtypes is carried out by DIN CERTCO, if necessary in consultation with the testing laboratory.

## 6.3 Conformity assessment



On the basis of the documents submitted, DIN CERTCO conducts the conformity examination. The assessment is made with the aid of the test report as to whether the consumer good, product, packaging or semi-finished product meets the requirements of the certification scheme.

The applicant will receive written notification from DIN CERTCO in the event of any possible deviations.

## 6.4 Certificate and the right to use the mark

After successful testing and conformity assessment of the application documents submitted, DIN CERTCO issues a certificate to the applicant and issues the right to use the respective

certification mark "flustix - NO PLASTICS" in conjunction with the respective registration number.

Certification object	Structure of the register number	Certification marks
Plastic-free total product	FPG000	
Content free from microplastics	FPM000	
Plastic-free product	FPP000	
Plastic-free packaging	FPV000	

Plastic-free consumer goods, products, packaging or semi-finished products, for which the right to use the certification mark "flustix PLASTIC-FREE" has been granted, must be marked with the respective certification mark "flustix PLASTIC-FREE" and the corresponding register number.

The mark and register number may only be used for the type for which the certification has been issued and which corresponds to the type-tested consumer goods, product, packaging or semi-finished product.

For each respective type, a registration number shall be issued. For design types (sub-types) of a type, the same registration number shall be issued (for information, see section 6.2).

In addition to this, the [General Terms and Conditions of DIN CERTCO](#) as well as the [Testing, Registration and Certification Regulations of DIN CERTCO](#) shall apply.

## 6.5 Publications

All certificate holders can be viewed on the daily up-dated homepage of DIN CERTCO [www.dincertco.tuv.com](http://www.dincertco.tuv.com) and via the homepage of FLUSTIX [www.flustix.com](http://www.flustix.com). Manufacturers, users and consumers use this research possibility for obtaining information on certified products.

## 6.6 Validity of the certificate

The certificate is valid for 5 years. The period of validity is shown on the certificate. On expiry of the certificate, the right to use the mark also expires.

## 6.7 Renewal of the certificate

If the certification shall continue to apply beyond the date shown on the certificate, DIN CERTCO must receive a current positive test report in good time before the validity expires. DIN CERTCO carries out the conformity assessment on the basis of the test report.

Proof of conformity with the requirements of the testing and certification principles according to section 2 is provided in the scope of an initial test according to section 5.2.1, which is assessed by DIN CERTCO.

## 6.8 Expiry of the certificate

In the event that the new standard conformity examination according to section 5 has not been completed before expiration of the validity period, the right to use the certification mark "flustix PLASTIC-FREE" and the registration number expires without the necessity for explicit notification from DIN CERTCO.

Furthermore, certificates can expire if, for example:

- the surveillance according to section 8 is not performed punctually or completely,
- the certification mark "flustix PLASTIC-FREE" is misused by the certificate holder.
- the requirements laid down in the certification scheme or its accompanying documents are not fulfilled.
- the certification fees are not paid on the due date.
- the prerequisites for the issuing of the certificate or confirmation of acceptability are no longer fulfilled.

## **6.9 Alterations/Amendments**

### **6.9.1 Alteration/Amendment to a consumer good, product, on the packaging or semi-finished product**

The certificate holder is obliged to notify DIN CERTCO of all alterations to that are subject to certification. DIN CERTCO will decide in coordination with the laboratory the extent to which testing according to Section 5.2.3 must be performed and whether the change is significant. The respective test report shall be forwarded to DIN CERTCO by the laboratory.

Should DIN CERTCO determine a substantial alteration, the certificate with the corresponding registration number shall expire. For the modified manufactured item, a new application for initial certification authorising the use of the “flustix PLASTIC-FREE” mark may be submitted.

The certificate holder remains obliged to notify of any changes in the formal details (e.g. name of certificate holder or his address).

The certificate holder may apply to DIN CERTCO for an extension of the existing certificate for further design-types (sub-types) of the same type. It is for DIN CERTCO to decide whether these amendments require a complementary examination. The design-types shall be entered in the certificate for the already certified product and, provided that the conditions are fulfilled, shall be regarded as an integral part of same.

### **6.9.2 Alterations to the basic test specifications**

If the basic test specifications for the certification are modified, an application for the alteration of the certification shall be generally submitted within 6 months of receiving notification from DIN CERTCO, and, as a rule, after 12 months, proof of conformity with the modified examination specifications shall be submitted in the form of a positive test report, if applicable (see Section 5.2.3).

## **6.10 Defects in the consumer goods, products, packaging or semi-finished products**

In the event that a certified consumer good, product, packaging or semi-finished product on the market is found to be defective, the certificate holder shall be summoned in writing by DIN CERTCO to rectify the defects.

The manufacturer must ensure that, until the defects have been rectified, the consumer goods, products, packaging or semi-finished products are no longer marked with the mark of conformity.

The defects must also be rectified without delay in installed products or consumer goods, products, packaging or semi-finished products in storage. The manufacturer must submit proof to DIN CERTCO within 3 months, in the form of a test report on a special test in accordance with section 5.2.4, that the defects have been rectified and that the consumer good, product, packaging or semi-finished product in question again fulfils the stipulated requirements.

Should the manufacturer fail to observe these deadlines, he and the distributor of product will no longer be permitted to use the certification mark “flustix PLASTIC-FREE”.

Should grounds for complaint continue to exist, DIN CERTCO shall initially suspend the certificate and at the same time issue a final deadline for the rectification of the defects. Should the certificate holder fail to meet this demand, or fail to meet it within the grace period, or if it is again not possible to prove that the defects have been rectified, the certificate shall be annulled.

## **7 Surveillance by the manufacturer**

The manufacturer must ensure, by suitable quality management measures, that the consumer good, product, packaging or semi-finished product characteristics confirmed by the certification are maintained.

This can be accomplished by means of an in-house factory production control (FPC) focused on the consumer good, product, packaging or semi-finished product itself or on the production and, in addition, can be guaranteed within the framework of a quality management system (QM-System) in accordance with the standard series DIN EN ISO 9000 ff.

DIN CERTCO recommends the installation and certification of the quality management system in conformity with the standard series DIN EN ISO 9000 ff.

## **8 Surveillance by DIN CERTCO**

An essential part of the certification is the constant surveillance of the certified consumer good, product, packaging or semi-finished product during the entire term of the certificate. The surveillance takes place in regular intervals of 2 years.

DIN CERTCO checks and assesses the conformity of the product with the requirements specified in the certification scheme by means of surveillance tests in accordance with the initial test according to clause 5.2.1.